

REMARKS

Claims 5, 8 and 11-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 5 is amended, claims 6 and 9 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 12 and 13 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Mack at the brief telephone conference held August 9, 2006, are appreciated. During the telephone conference, Examiner Mack agreed to grant a personal interview upon the submission of claim amendments and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore, with the submission of the Amendment and RCE, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representatives to schedule a personal interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,479,049 to Aoki et al. (Aoki). The rejection of canceled claims 6 and 9 is moot. This rejection of claims 5 and 8 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, reducing the optical thickness of the manufactured lens to a target optical thickness by etching a surface of the manufactured lens when the optical thickness of the manufactured lens is greater than the target optical thickness.

The Office Action asserts that Aoki teaches at col. 5, lines 40-44 that a surface of a manufactured lens is etched to reduce the optical thickness when the optical thickness of the manufactured lens is greater than a target optical thickness. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As argued in the March 14 Request for Reconsideration and as discussed during the March 22 personal interview, Aoki only teaches etching a surface of a micro lens 11 by a thickness of about 500 Å to promote adhesion when the adhesion between the first transparent resin layer 12 and the micro lens 12 is weak. Col. 5, lines 40-45. Aoki does not recognize a target optical thickness but only a desired depth of etching, and thus does not

teach or suggest reducing an optical thickness of the micro lens 11 to the target optical thickness. In addition, Aoki does not teach or suggest reducing the optical thickness of the micro lens 11 when the optical thickness of the manufactured lens is greater than the target optical thickness. Therefore, Aoki does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, claim 5 is patentable over Aoki.

Claim 8 is patentable at least for its dependence on claim 5, as well as for the additional feature it recites. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Aoki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,914,724 to Redmond. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

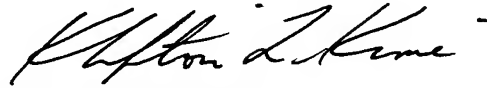
Redmond does not overcome the deficiencies of Aoki with respect to claim 5. Therefore, claim 11 is patentable at least for its dependence on claim 5, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New dependent claims 12 and 13 are fully supported by the application as originally filed and depend from claim 5. Therefore, claims 12 and 13 are patentable at least for their dependence on claim 5, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: August 17, 2006

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